

DATE

Ashley Deshotel Solomon
Director of Governmental and Ethics Compliance
1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Suite 701
Jefferson, Louisiana 70123

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2021-028

Dear Ms. Solomon,

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its meeting on March 5, 2021, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit the Jefferson Parish Department of General Services from paying for department-wide lunches for employees.

FACTS PROVIDED

The Jefferson Parish Department of General Services ("Department") has initiated an inner-department safety committee to help reduce the risk of workplace injuries and illnesses and ensure compliance with federal, state, and local health and safety regulations. The committee would like to reward employees for safety goals and actions with a department-wide lunch which would be paid for by the Department and/or the Department's Director, Anthony Francis.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1111A: No public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position. La. R.S. 42:1102(22)(a) defines a thing of economic value "to include money or any other thing having economic value ... except .. food, drink, or refreshments consumed by a public servant ... while the personal guest of some person."

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that your request presents no issues under the Code. If the lunches are paid for by the Department's Director, he must be present when the meal is consumed.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other

than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (800)842-6630 or (225)219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

David M. Bordelon
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.